

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 21-34 are currently pending in this application.

This is meant to be a complete response to the non-final office action mailed on January 27, 2010. The following is a disposition of the claims: Claims 1-20 are canceled, claims 21 and 34 are currently amended and claims 22-33 have been previously presented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

In the Office Action dated January 27, 2010, the Examiner rejected claims 21-34 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above stated rejection of claims 21-34 under 35 U.S.C. 112 is moot in light of the declaration filed under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 filed herewith and the amendments made to independent claims 21 and 34, and thus claims 22-33 for depending therefrom.

Independent claim 1, as currently amended, is directed to a method of making a substrate having an admicellar hydrophobic polymer coating thereon, comprising the steps of: providing a substrate comprised of a plurality of individual fibers, each of the individual fibers having at least one

surface; and applying an admicellar hydrophobic polymer coating on the at least one surface of the plurality of individual fibers wherein voids are disposed between the plurality of individual fibers having the admicellar hydrophobic polymer coating on the at least one surface.

Similarly, independent claim 34, as currently amended, is currently directed to a method of making a substrate having an admicellar hydrophobic polymer coating thereon, comprising: providing a substrate ... thereof; applying an admicellar hydrophobic polymer coating on the at least one surface of the plurality of individual fibers wherein voids are disposed between the plurality of individual fibers having the admicellar hydrophobic polymer coating on the at least one surface, introducing ... styrene; introducing ... AIBN; and heating ... minutes.

Section 608 of the MPEP states that "all amendments or claims must find descriptive basis in the original disclosure, or they involve new matter. Applicant may rely for disclosure upon the specification with original claims and drawings, as filed." (Emphasis added) Further, § 2173.05(a) of the MPEP states that "the meaning of every term used in a claim should be apparent from the prior art or from the specification and drawings at the time the application is filed." (Emphasis added)

The specification, more specifically paragraph [0071], and Figures 14(a) and 14(b) clearly provide support for the language of the claims as they are currently amended. The pertinent part of the claims provide

"...individual fibers wherein voids are disposed between the plurality of individual fibers having the admicellar hydrophobic polymer coating on the at least one surface." The definition of void in Merriam-Webster is "containing nothing." Another definition in Merriam-Webster is "not occupied."

A portion of paragraph [0071] states that "FIG. 14 shows the SEM micrographs of the untreated and treated cotton. The micrograph shows that the hydrophobic cotton had a film coated on the fiber." When looking at Figures 14(a) and 14(b), it is clear from the specification and Figure 14(b) that Figure 14(b) shows individual fibers having the admicellar hydrophobic polymer coating on the surface of the individual fibers where in voids (or areas "containing nothing") are disposed between the individual fibers.

Further, Dr. Edgar O'Rear has signed a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 stating that he, as one of ordinary skill in the art with respect to the subject matter of this pending patent application, would know, taking the originally filed specification and Figures into consideration, that only the surfaces of the individual fibers would be coated and that voids would be disposed between the individual fibers.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 21 and 34, and thus claims

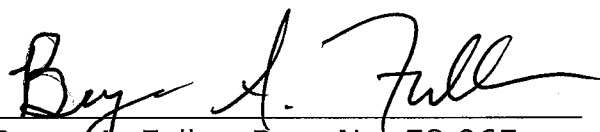
22-33 for depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. 112, as applicable to claims now pending in the application.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this application, as now presented, is in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above. Therefore, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider each and every rejection as applicable to the claims pending in the application and pass such claims to an expedient issue.

The foregoing is meant to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed January 27, 2010.

In the event that any outstanding issues remain that would delay the allowance of this application, the examiner is urged to contact the undersigned to telephonically discuss such outstanding issues.



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